



Michael J. Lewis, M.D., Ph.D., Secretary  
West Virginia Department of  
Health and Human Resources

Board Members  
Sonia D. Chambers  
Marilyn G. White

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

August 24, 2011

ORIGINAL

Federal Communications Commission  
c/o Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Received & Inspected

AUG 31 2011

FCC Mail Room

Re: *In the Matter of Applications of AT&T Inc. and Deutsche Telekom AG for  
Consent to Assign or Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations;  
(WT Proceeding - No. 11-65).*

Dear Commissioners:

The programs administered by the West Virginia Health Care Authority generally have two primary purposes: to constrain the rising cost of health care and to assure reasonable access to necessary health services. Both of these ends would be greatly improved with the advent of interactive, real-time video streaming and telemedicine services.

We are also working to develop the technology backbone for a statewide health information exchange (HIE) system. This system will securely capture real-time clinical and administrative data from electronic medical records, healthcare claims, and other sources and provide clinicians with comprehensive patient histories at the point of care so they can make better-informed clinical decisions.

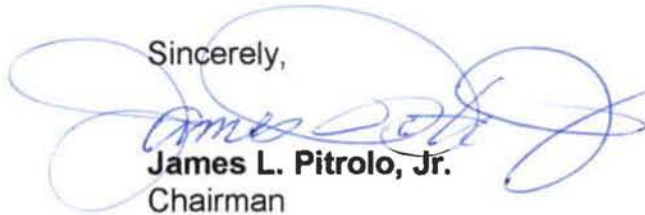
The cost benefit is simple: as technology evolves routine procedures not requiring physical examination will become much more efficient. It will mean less travel, less overhead and faster, more individualized and improved coordination of care. Moreover, it will improve clinical outcomes, reduce unnecessary and redundant diagnostic tests, as well as create a less fragmented clinical and administrative workflow.

These advancements are only possible if we resolve the issue of broadband access. Ironically, the people who stand to gain the most from telemedicine—rural residents, as well as the poor and elderly in other underserved areas—currently have the most limited access. West Virginia needs to hasten the arrival of universal mobile broadband coverage any way possible.

The best option to help this become reality in the near future sits before the FCC right now. We have concluded that the proposed merger between AT&T and T-Mobile would be the quickest way to deliver advanced 4G LTE technology to nearly all areas in the U.S. that are without broadband service today. Combined resources and networks, and billions of dollars in infrastructure investment by AT&T, would add a million more square miles of coverage area than under current plans.

We trust that the Commission will review this matter carefully, and quickly, so that West Virginia's citizens can enjoy the prospective benefits of this merger as soon as possible. Please do your best to move this merger along now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James L. Pitrolo, Jr.", is written over the typed name. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

**James L. Pitrolo, Jr.**  
Chairman

JLP:lh

cc: Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell